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A NEW GENUS OF BAEINI FROM AFRICA
(HYMENOPTERA, PLATYGASTROIDEA, SCELIONIDAE)

In 1987, with a financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Author spent, as teacher Professor, six months in Mozambique, at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Maputo. During that stay he also had the opportunity to select, in the Entomological Laboratory of that Faculty, a lot of Scelionids picked up by some local collectors; among them he identified the new taxon described below, for which a new genus of the tribe Baeini must be erected.

Abbreviations and symbols: eh = eye height; ios = interorbital space; l = length; ms = malar space; T1...T2 = tergites ; w =width.

***Afrobaeus* n. gen.**

Type species: *Afrobaeus zocchii* n. sp.

Description. Body short and stocky in appearance (Fig. 1), apterous.

Head much wider than long (19 w : 4.5 l), wider than thorax, posteriorly emarginated and arched around the anterior part of mesosoma; compound eye moderately large, almost hemispherical (eh = 7 l x 6 w); lateral ocelli very close to the inner orbits of the

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compound eyes and distant from the occiput about 3.5 times their diameter; frons flat from above the interantennal projection and for more or less the scape's length, whereas moderately declivous near the vertex; central keel absent; mandibles short and flattened, symmetrical, each one with 3 minute teeth (Fig. 1, 2); hyperoccipital carina absent; antenna 7-segmented with 4 funicular articles; clava more or less as long as the scape, without any traces of segmentation.

Thorax with rectangular scutum, less than 2.5 times wider than long (16 w x 7 l); scutellum also rectangular in shape, more or less 1/3 the scutum's length, covering eventual posterior morphological elements pertaining to the thorax.

Metasoma sessile, revealing as to be fused onto the thorax, rounded dorsally. T1 and T2 about equal in length (7.5 : 8.2), while the length of all the remaining tergites together is 5.2.

E t y m o l o g y . It refers both to the African Continent and to the name of the Scelionid tribe Baeini.

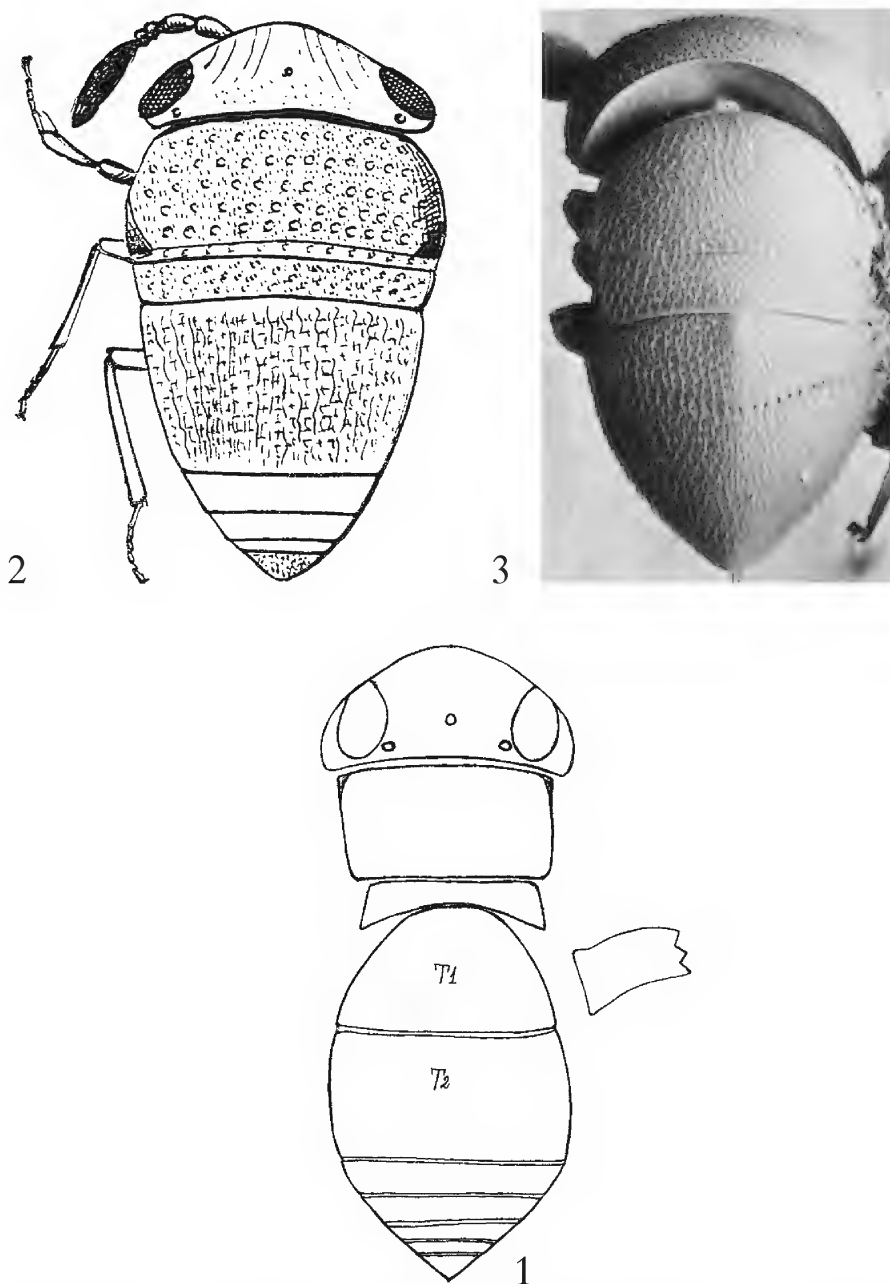
O b s e r v a t i o n s . In some morphological aspects, e.g. the scutum, the scutellum or the metasomatic division of tergites, *Afrobaeus* n. gen. looks, among the other genera of Baeini, mostly to *Psyllobaeus* Austin, 1984 (see Fig. 3), from which anyway differs by the antennal formula. *Afrobaeus* furthermore shows to be markedly different from the other African genera of Baeini described by RISBEC (1956) (see Fig. 2). The antennal formula of *Afrobaeus* is like in *Baeus* Haliday, 1833.

***Afrobaeus zocchii* n. sp. (Fig. 1)**

Holotype ♀: Mozambique, Outskirts of Maputo, by net on dried grasses, May 1983, Lab. Entomology, University, Mrs Angela legit. The specimen will be preserved in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova (MSNG).

D e s c r i p t i o n . The following characters can be added to those ones already quoted in the description of the genus.

Length mm 0.7; body orange, weakly dark; eyes greysh, hairless; lateral ocelli uncoloured; scape, A1, clava and legs, excluding paler hind femora and tibiae, castaneous; radicle, remaining articles of funicle, mandibles and tarsomeres of the 3 pairs pale yellow; ios = 10; ms = 4.7.



Figs. 1-3 - Fig. 1) *Afrobaeus zocchii* n. gen., n. sp.: female habitus and mandible. Fig. 2) *Paraneurobaeus arachnevora* Risbec (from RISBEC 1956). Fig. 3) *Psyllobaeus pecki* Austin (from AUSTIN 1984). Note the different proportions of T1 and T2 in the three genera.

Head, scutum, scutellum, T1 and T2 finely scaly reticulate sculptured, uniformly covered by sparse short setae, not decumbent.

G e o g r a p h i c a l d i s t r i b u t i o n . At the moment, only Mozambique.

B i o l o g y . Unknown.

E t y m o l o g y . The species is named in memory of the gentleman Professor Rodolfo Zocchi (1922-2001), who was the Director of the former "Istituto Sperimentale per la Zoologia Agraria" in Florence (now "Centro di Ricerca per l'Agrobiologia e la Pedologia di Firenze, CRA-ABP") and responsible of the scientific journal "Redia".

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ABSTRACT

The new genus *Afrobaeus* (with type species *A. zocchi* n. sp.) is described from Mozambique. Among the other known genera of Baeini *Afrobaeus* runs closest to *Psyllobaeus* Austin, 1984, from which it differs markedly in the antennal formula.

RIASSUNTO

Un nuovo genere africano di Baeini (Hymenoptera, Platygastroidea, Scelionidae).

L'Autore descrive il nuovo genere *Afrobaeus*, appartenente alla tribù dei Baeini, i cui membri finora conosciuti risultano essere endoparassiti delle uova di ragni. Tale genere, affine a *Psyllobaeus* Austin, 1984 (ma da cui si differenzia agevolmente per la diversa formula antennale), ha come specie tipo *Afrobaeus zocchi* n. sp., scoperta in Mozambico, nei dintorni di Maputo.